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EDITORIALS BY JUDGE C. C. GOODWIN

"The President's Plan"

THERE is no occasion for becoming hysterical over what is termed "The President's Plan" for better preparing our country against possible attack. All the world knows that the United States wants no territory that is possessed by any other power. At the same time all strong powers know that to attack the United States any nation would have to fight a long way from its own shores and that there would be other obstacles in the way.

The most probable danger is that when the present war is over in Europe, some power, soured, disappointed and angry, may try to gain a foothold somewhere in Spanish America, which would make it necessary to go to the defense of the power threatened. But that danger is remote, because, first, the foreign war is not over, and second, we suspect that The Hague congress will have to be the final arbiter, and that the terms of peace will preclude any future war of conquest. But in all that there is no argument that is tenable against our nation taking the natural precautions against attack; for the unexpected is what often happens.

Whether the Allies or Teutons win, the winning power will be aggressive and probably insolent in victory. Should the result be a drawn battle, then all would be soured and liable to be aggressive and possibly insolent. And the American people should not be made to sleep on uneasy pillows because of them.

The arguments of Mr. Bryan are not worth much consideration. The increased taxation which he anticipates would be but insurance money, and would not amount to one tithe of the cost of one month's war. When he declares that:

"If there is any truth in our religion a nation must win respect as an individual does, not by carrying arms, but by an upright, honorable course, that invites confidence and insures good will," he seems to forget that "our religion" may not impress the other side. A little talk with a Belgian or Polish peasant might change his mind. Has Mr. Bryan no locks on the doors of his private home? If he had to cross a frontier infested by wild beasts or savage men would he trust altogether to his religion and upright life to win the confidence of the tiger or the savage?

And when he dreads the possibility of our people engendering "a false idea of honor," he fails to distinguish between training men to fit them for perfect citizenship, and that other training in which is imbued the idea that conquest shall follow conquest until native land shall dominate the world by force of arms. When our great Civil war closed and the soldiers north and south silently merged back into the ranks of peace and rejoicing took up their work, they showed the dif-

ference between our republic and all other nations in the character of her men. As to the president's plan, that will be for the wisdom of the nation's representatives to consider. And they should call in eminent sailors and soldiers to help them; more, they should call in shrewd business men to help and lastly some great railroad men, to help direct where army and naval stores, ammunition, etc., could in an emergency be soonest transferred to needed points.

We wish, too, that there might be a provision looking to the elementary training of all the country's young men in the art and practice of war. That schooling for a year would be better for them than any other year's schooling, in training them for citizenship and for the world's competition in every direction.

What The Dictograph Would Tell

IT would be interesting could a dictograph be placed under the table when the Democratic managers meet to plan next summer's campaign, and have just what is said given to the public.

Some crusty old Democrat would be sure to have a copy of the 1912 Democratic platform in his pocket, and would draw it upon the company.

Then he would be apt to say: "We promised a curtailment of expenses because of the extravagant disbursements of the Republicans.

"We have exceeded the Republicans by \$125,000,000 that we cannot cover up.

"We promise here tariff reform and explaining what was intended our now president declared that no legitimate business need be alarmed, that all that was intended was to place the tariff on a fair basis. Have any of you gentlemen the courage to go into the great manufacturing states and explain how that pledge has been kept?

We promised a great reduction in the cost of living. Does not that seem pretty much of a joke now?

"We in this platform insisted that our coast shipping, which is not in competition with the business of any foreign power, should be free to pass the Panama canal. How have we kept that pledge?

"Fifteen months ago, when the great European war burst upon the world, it was clear that the first thing essential was to rush work that our ocean commerce, upon which our progress on land greatly depends, must be given the needed ships to carry it on. In response to that demand, has one ship been built?

"Is there one man in this company who would dare to go upon the rostrum and explain the statesmanship that has governed the management of our policy toward Mexico, from the fiasco of sending our Atlantic fleet to Vera Cruz to date?

"The men who have supplied the country with metallic money and enabled the republic to become really great, live in the west and the most of the money they have sent in has been drawn from the breast of the desert. Have we not, ever since the day of President Wilson's inaugu-

ation, kept that desert filled with spies trying to find coal and oil and timber lands and water powers to steal them from those frontiersmen under the specious term of reservations?

"With what grace can we ask them for endorsement for another four years?

"I notice that there is a program being prepared to expend some hundreds of millions on rivers and harbors and to prepare the country against possible attack. How many of those millions are really intended to swell next year's campaign fund?

"We were able to elect a minority candidate in 1912, through the treachery of Colonel Roosevelt, and we have not even been able to retain his friendship. On what basis do you propose to make a showing that will capture the offices for another term?

I would not willingly be either cowardly or pessimistic, but I really need aid and comfort to hold me up to make another old-time fight."

Preparedness For Peace

THE so-called "President's Plan" for a better preparedness for the nation, contemplates only armed foes from without. That is all right, for a nation needs an efficient police as much as does a city. But preparedness within a nation is sometimes more necessary than to build defenses against possible foes without.

The war in Europe will finally wear itself out, and then what? Every nation will be prostrate under an almost unbearable weight of debt. Its only means of recuperating will be through trade. Some millions of workers, skilled and unskilled, will be required to fill the places of those who have died, but many will seek foreign lands. These will be of three classes. Some well to do who will leave to avoid the fearful taxation; some of brave and enterprising spirit, who will have determined that with recuperation, under their forms of government another war will be precipitated, but the great majority will be the abjectly poor classes.

Most of these will gravitate to our shores, and will enter into direct competition with our own lowly workers.

Are the president and congress devising any plans of preparedness to meet these invaders or to meet the competition in trade which those at home will spring upon us?

Are they great enough to fairly consider the defects of the Underwood law and to revise it?

Have they advanced to a full appreciation of the absolute need of an American merchant marine to carry away what we have to sell and bring back what we buy?

This last, if established, would give quite three hundred thousand men employment in building and sailing the ships and in supplying the coal and iron ore needed, and in carrying them to the points of reduction. That would represent one million five hundred thousand people. With ships running in regular lines and with full assurance that they would continue to run on those lines one effect would be to draw away vast numbers of